

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace paragraph [0022] on page 5 of the specification with the following paragraph:

[0022] Any suitable apicultural delivery vehicle may be used in the invention so long as it is suitable for delivering the inoculum to a hive such that a remedial and/or protective microflora can ultimately be established therein (with or without the agency of a colonizing bee population). Preferably, the delivery vehicle is one which functions in conjunction with the foraging and feeding activity of the nesting bee colony, the inoculum being delivered when the inoculum (carried by the delivery agent) is taken up by the bees and subsequently dispersed throughout the hive and/or colony by subsequent secretion (e.g., *via* the hypopharyngeal glands in the course of the feeding of larvae), excretion or discharge.